

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 613
By McNally

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of J. Carson Ridenour, Sr.
of Clinton.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of former legislator J. Carson Ridenour, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ridenour was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a vastly talented man, J. Carson Ridenour, Sr. pursued numerous careers throughout his life, serving with acumen and alacrity as a teacher, coach, businessman, lawyer, and legislator; in each position, he earned the respect of his peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, born in Campbell County on September 13, 1908, to Lewis and Elphia Layne Ridenour, Mr. Ridenour graduated from Jellico High School in 1926; and

WHEREAS, a superb athlete, he played high school and college baseball and basketball and minor league baseball in Tennessee, Kentucky, and Virginia; and

WHEREAS, at the age of sixteen, he played for an independent Jellico baseball team and was teammates with future Major League players such as Billy Harkness, Chester Cline,

and Harold Moon; the young J. Carson Ridenour also played baseball in Cincinnati for the Proctor and Gamble soap company, a team which produced many future Cincinnati Reds' players; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from the University of Tennessee, J. Carson Ridenour, Sr. taught and coached at elementary schools in Campbell County and later became the football coach at Stair Technical High School, now known as Fulton High School, for three years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ridenour resigned from teaching at the outbreak of World War II; in 1943, he moved to Anderson County and accepted the position of Superintendent of Temporary Housing with Stone-Webster Corporation, one of the nation's largest engineering firms; in 1945, he ably advanced to the head of Temporary Housing for Roane-Anderson counties; and

WHEREAS, his construction activities led to the formation of J. C. Ridenour, Inc., in Oak Ridge, and he served diligently as the corporation's president from 1946-1950; and

WHEREAS, in 1948, J. Carson Ridenour, Sr. was elected to the Tennessee General Assembly as a representative of the citizens of Anderson and Morgan counties and was appointed Minority Leader; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from the University of Tennessee Law School in 1951, he chiefly concentrated on developing his law practice, but he remained devoted to the sports' community and agreed to coach the Clinton Elementary School football team for four years until a permanent coach could be hired; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, J. Carson Ridenour, Sr. was honored by the Jellico Alumni Association for his lifelong service to the school and its community, and he subsequently became a key figure in a push for a new high school and athletic facilities, which all came to fruition before his death; and

WHEREAS, J. Carson Ridenour, Sr. was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ridenour enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Alice Dockery Ridenour, and was the proud father and father-in-law of Jacqueline S. Fagan, Victoria L. and

John Csurny, Sherrie G. Ridenour, James C. and Susan Ridenour, and Ron and Linda Ridenour; and

WHEREAS, he is also survived by four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and one brother, Bill Ridenour; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ridenour leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of J. Carson Ridenour, Sr., reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Ridenour.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.